

ST. FRANCIS CATHOLIC PARISH NEWSLETTER

7th January 2024 The Epiphany of the Lord (B)

126 Week Street, Maidstone, Kent, ME14 1RH Tel. 01622 756217

Email: maidstone@rcaos.org.uk Website: www.stfrancisparish.org.uk

Parish Priest: Fr. Liam Gallagher

Assistant Priest: Fr Simon Peter Lubuulwa

Also Resident: Fr Peter Norris (Retired)

Deacon: Rev. Ian Black

Parish Office hours: 10am – 12 noon Tuesday and Friday (email or telephone only)

Catholic Schools

St Francis Primary School: Queen's Road, Maidstone, ME16 0LB

01622 771540

St Simon Stock Secondary School: Oakwood Park, Maidstone, ME16 0JP

01622 754551

THE ARRIVAL OF THE MAGI



Some Wise Men came to Jerusalem from the East....and falling to their knees...they offered him gold and frankincense and myrrh.' (Matthew 2:1,11.)

THANK YOU: A massive thank you to the many parishioners who donated gifts and food for the Christmas appeal. It doesn't solve problems but it helps people feel loved and valued and takes some of the weight off. Very much appreciated - thank you to you all.

CALLING ALL MARRIED COUPLES: As part of the preparation for the 2025 Jubilee year, the Southwark Marriage and Family Team will be running a *Building a Better Marriage Course* throughout the Archdiocese from February 2024. The one day course is for married couples (whether married for one year, 60 years or anywhere in between). The next course will take place at Holy Family Catholic Church, Parkwood ME15 9PS on Saturday 5th February from 9.30am - 4pm. There is no group sharing and private information remains private to each couple. Couples who have attended previously have found it enjoyable, informative, and uplifting. For more information contact the Marriage and Family Life team through the Archdiocese of Southwark: website. <https://www.rcsouthwark.co.uk/mission/marriage-and-family-life>

IN YOUR 20'S AND 30'S?: You are invited to join the 'Bible and Beverage' group who are meeting Thursday 11th January at 7.30pm. An hour of prayer and a social gathering in The Society rooms. What better way to spend your evening?

LAY CHAPLAIN: Salary: KR7 (£25,378 - £28,466 FTE) approximately £22,023 - £24,703 pro rata **Hours:** 37 hours per week, Term time plus five non pupil days (39 weeks) at St Gregory's Catholic School, Tunbridge Wells. More info found on <https://www.kent-teach.com/Recruitment/Vacancy/VacancyDetails.aspx?VacancyId=126521>

STAMPS FOR THE BLIND: Thank you for all the stamps that have been donated throughout the year. The amount collected last year was £828.00 this goes towards the charity for the blind. We ask that you continue to donate these stamps for such a good cause. Please do not donate damaged or torn stamps. Thank you.

CHURCH SHOP: This is open from 9.15am to 10.00am and 11.00am to 11.30am.

BE A WINNER: An opportunity to be part of our parish lottery will be available at the end of Mass. Application forms and QR code cards are now available from the back of the Church. Collections will start from 6th January to 14th January for Saturday evening and Sunday after the 8.30am Mass until the beginning of the 11:30 Mass. You can also join online at www.stfrancisparish.org.uk/parish-lottery Good luck everyone.

JOHN BLACK: We were sad to receive the news that John Black, father of Deacon Ian Black, passed away during the week. We keep his family very much in our prayers at this time.

COLLECTION:

First collection last week (cash)	£1,362.00
Second Collection this Sunday Parish Development Fund	
Second Collection next Sunday DEW Association	
Direct debits for November	
Standing Orders Gift Aid	£3,190
Standing Orders Non Gift Aid	£871.96
Collection CARD Offerings	£1,444.36
Collection ONLINE Offerings	£83.85
TOTAL	£5,590.17

PARISH LOTTERY:	Week Number 25	Number 32	Amount £100
	Week Number 26	Number 251	Amount £1,000

MASS TIMES AND INTENTIONS

Sunday 7th January The Epiphany of the Lord	6.00pm (Sat)	People of the Parish
	8.30am	Carol Kinsella RIP
	9.00am (PH)	Holy Souls
	10.00am	Holy Souls
	11.30am	John Donovan RIP
	6.00pm	Christina Brennan RIP
Monday 8th January The Baptism of our Lord	11.15am	Holy Souls
Tuesday 9th January	10.30am	Marianne Esther Corfe RIP
Wednesday 10th January	10.30am	In reparation for abortions from Brewer St
Thursday 11th January	10.30am	Charles Johnstone RIP
Friday 12th January	10.30am	Virgie and Frederick D'Silva RIP
Saturday 13th January	10.00am	Teresa Dias de Franca RIP
Sunday 14th January	6.00pm (Sat)	Andrew Busuttil RIP
	8.30am	Holy Souls
	9.00am (PH)	Leslie Wood RIP
	10.00am	Private Intention
	11.30am	Private Intention
	6.00pm	People of the Parish

We remember in our prayers those whose anniversaries occur at this time

Albert Bruce, Margaret Ewers, Charles Knott, Baby Amy Eiffert, Margaret Lockyer, Patrick Keaney RIP, Charles Woolley, Sr Joseph Callaghan, Maria Scott, Catherine Sevenoaks, Patrick Capon, Janet Willis, Anne Ryan, Mary Chown, Annie Roche, Tony McCarthy, Jenty Millen, Noel Kirgan, Kenneth Wade, Catherine Collier, Jana Scholefield, John Ratcliffe, Peter Appleby, Clare Montague, Doris Bell, Alice Henderson Bell, Jim Jaques, Emily Fisher, Baby Marcie Durban, Mabel Finn, Monica Casey, Teresa De Franca, Maria Fernandez, William Mendes, Francis Coates, Dorothy Savage, May Cousins, Florence Parker, Gilda Hughes, Elizabeth Chittleborough, Patrick Harrington, Michael Ryan, Sheila Baker.

CONFESSIONS: Friday 11.00am – 11.30am; Saturday 10.45am - 11.30am

ADORATION: 9.30am – 10.15am every Friday morning.